

CLAIMS

1. A process for the manufacture of a protecting and immobilising element of the mattress-like type, comprising the stages of providing containing means (2, 20); providing a layer of flexible material (3, 21) and arranging it inside the containing means (2, 20), with the peripheral edges (4, 22) of the flexible layer (3, 21) protruding from the containing means (2, 20); arranging anchoring means (5) and a first netting structure (6, 23) inside the containing means (2, 20), the netting structure (6, 23) being in direct contact with the flexible layer (3, 21) and the anchoring means (5) passing through the netting structure at predetermined positions (12, 25); filling the containing means (2, 20) with a filling material (7) comprising solid and/or fluid elements; superposing a second netting structure (8) on the filling material (7), and superposing, at least partially, the peripheral edges (4, 22) of the flexible layer (3, 21) in such a manner as to produce a closed cover from which the ends (11, 27) of the anchoring means (5) protrude.

2. A process according to claim 1, characterised in that it comprises the following stages:

- a) providing a mould (2);
- b) providing a layer of flexible material (3);
- c) arranging the flexible layer (3) inside the mould (2), the peripheral edges (4) of the flexible layer (3) protruding from the mould (2);
- d) arranging anchoring means (5) at predetermined positions (12) on the surface of the flexible layer (3);
- e) arranging, inside the mould (2) and in direct contact with the flexible layer (3), a first netting structure

7. A process according to claim 6, characterised in that, between stage e) and stage h), it comprises the following stages:

- f) superposing, at least partially, the peripheral edges (24) of the netting structure (23) on the base of the netting structure (23);

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- characterised in that the flexible covering layer (3) and the netting structure (6) are in direct contact with one another, with the ends of the anchoring means (5) disposed between them.

10. A protecting element according to claim 9, characterised in that the upper end (31) of the bar (19) is engaged with an eye-like element (17, 30) selectively retractable into the cylindrical portion (15).

11. A protecting element according to claim 10, characterised in that two or more foot elements (16) are connected to the cylindrical portion (15) in order to increase the stability of the anchoring means (5).

a 12. A protecting element according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, characterised in that the lower ends of the bar (19) and of the foot elements (16) are secured to a plate element (18).

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